

Amendments To The Drawings:

The attached sheet, which includes Figs. 1, 2, 2a, and 3, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 1, 2, and 3. New Fig. 2a illustrates plates having multiple nests. Support for this new figure is found on page 7, lines 10-12 of the original application.

Attachment: Replacement Drawing Sheet

Remarks

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated **March 29, 2006**. In the Office Action the drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The specification was objected to due to several informalities. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 10, and 11 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Ching et al. (US 6,481,262 B2). Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 8 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Mott (US 2,314,236). Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Macy (US 2,639,754). Claims 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mott. Claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable under Macy. Claim 12 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable under Ching.

New Fig. 2a has been added. The Specification has been amended to correct the objected to informalities and to provide for the addition of new Fig. 2a. Claim 1 has been amended. No new matter has been added. The objections and rejections will be addressed under headings consistent with those of the Office Action.

Drawings

In the Office Action the drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). New Fig. 2a illustrates plates having multiple nests. Support for the new figure can be found on page 7, lines 10-12 of the original application. Applicant respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

Specification

The disclosure was objected to due to several informalities. The paragraph beginning on page 6, line 30 and the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 22 have been amended to correct the noted informalities. In addition, the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 30 has been amended and a line has been added on page 5, line 8 to address the addition of new Fig. 2a. Applicant respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

35 USC §102

In the Office Action claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 10, and 11 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Ching et al. (US 6,481,262 B2). Claim 1 has been amended to recite “the first plate and the second plate longitudinally moveable relative to one another, the first plate constructed and arranged to be longitudinally separated from the second plate in a first position, and in a second position the first plate immediately adjacent to the second plate”. Ching does not teach these limitations.

The plates 70 and 80 as defined in the Office Action are not longitudinally moveable relative to one another. Rather, the plates of Ching relative to one another are disposed in a fixed position longitudinally and move perpendicularly to the longitudinal when crimping the stent. Furthermore, the plates of Ching are not longitudinally separated from one another. For at least these reasons, Ching does not anticipate amended claim 1 and those claims dependent there of. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 8 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Mott (US 2,314,236). The argument as stated above also applies to Mott. The plates 23 and

18 of Mott as defined in the Office Action are not longitudinally moveable relative one another.

Instead, Mott teaches plates that move perpendicularly to the longitudinal and are not longitudinally separated from one another. For at least these reasons, Mott does not anticipate amended claim 1 and those claims dependent there of. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Macy (US 2,639,754). Macy does not teach plates that are “longitudinally moveable relative to one another” as recited in amended claim 1. Similar to Ching and Mott, the plates of Macy as defined in the Office Action move perpendicularly to the longitudinal relative to one another. For at least these reasons, Macy does not anticipate amended claim 1 and those claims dependent there of. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

35 USC §103

Claims 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mott. Claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable under Macy. Claim 12 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable under Ching. As asserted above, the limitations of amended claim 1 are not taught in Mott, Macy, or Ching; nor is there any suggestion of the limitations of amended claim 1.

Each of the references teach crimping a stent by bringing the plates together in a direction perpendicular to that of the longitudinal. There is no teaching or suggestion in these references of the plates being “longitudinally moveable relative to one another” as claimed. For at least this reason amended claim 1 is allowable in light of the references. Claims 6-9 and 12 are believed to be allowable for at least the reason that they claims dependence on claim 1 which

is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Applicant respectfully requests that the obviousness rejections be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing it is believed that the present application, with pending claims 1-19, is in condition for allowance. Early action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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